

MEETING MINUTES: CCCoLA JUNE 11, 2026

PRESENT: CAROL BERG (LEAO LAKE AND MID-TRAIL PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATIONS), LARRY BICK AND Youngsoo (POPLAR LAKE), BETSY BLUME (DEVIL TRACK), KATHY BOGEN (LOON LAKE ROAD ASSOCIATION), David Coleman (CLEARWATER LAKE), PATTI CRADDOCK (PIKE LAKE), AL FLIEDER (ASPEN LAKE), LYNDA HAY (SEAGULL), Jerry Johnson (Hungry Jack Lakes), KATE KELNBERGER (WEST BEARSKIN), Rory Laiho (South Greenwood Lake Road Owners), Doug Laiho (South Greenwood Lake Road Owners), GARY MACIEJEWSKI (TAIT LAKE), MARGRE LIND MILLS (PIKE LAKE), JOHN MILLS (PIKE LAKE), ANN SULLIVAN (DISTRICT 4 COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER), Jerry Wilkes (Devil Track Lake)

Guests: Kristen Treble-Halbersma (Cook County Administrator)

Bill Douglas (Saginaga Lake and Chik Wauk Loon Project), Mona Finholt-Hansen (Chik Wauk Loon Project)

Item	Discussion	Action
County Updates, Administrator Kristen Trebl-Halbersma (10:10-10:20)	Updates: <u>Highway Department</u>—Re-surfacing and culvert replacement will be taking place this summer on the Gunflint Trail from 92 East to 92 West. Gunflint Trail will not be closed on that corridor during construction. A community meeting about this project will be held near at the end of June at Schaap. Phone numbers to contact— <u>Legislative</u> Some funds were garnered from both the State and Federal legislative sessions to resurface and upgrade the last 10 miles of the Gunflint Trail. Next year, the County will reassess whether there are adequate funds to do the project. The original cost projection for this project was \$15 million. Staging and completing at the same time is more efficient and less expensive. <u>Land Services.</u> Neva Maxwell is the new Director. Mitch Everson has retired. Jesse Johnson has been hired as the Environmental Health Officer. Kirsten Wisniewski has been hired as the Planning and Zoning Administrator. <u>2 upcoming events</u> Saturday, June 13, 9-1 at the recycling center. E-waste collection low cost July 18, 9-noon. Hazardous Waste collection at the Recycling Center Free	Well testing questions can be sent to Jesse Johnson, or you can review the information here: https://cookcountymn.gov/government/departments/land_services/environmental_health/index.php

	<u>Law Enforcement Center updates</u> EOC (Emergency Command Operations) will be housed there in the Law Enforcement Center. <u>Transfer Station Ribbon cutting ceremony</u> will be held on Friday, June 26, 10-1 at the Transfer Station. Food and beverages will be served and there will be several speakers including Representative Roger Skraba and Senator Grant Hauschild. Hoping for an early July opening. Please drive slowly and carefully to avoid collisions with wildlife and other accidents. There are many County employees who are members of Volunteer Firefighting and Search and Rescue. The County is drafting a resolution to allow employees who serve on the VFD or Emergency Responders to use some of their work hours for these activities.	
County Updates, Ann Sullivan 3rd District Commissioner (10:20-10:30)	Prescribed burns: Improvement in the communications from the USFS. It would be good to acknowledge Kyle Stover and Mike Crook thanking them for their communication with the prescribed burns. Rory and Doug felt the communication around the prescribed burn near their property went well. First rescue using the dual engine rescue helicopter has been done in the BWCA out of Ely. Call 911 in an emergency and the dispatcher will decide if the helicopter is needed. Hoping to purchase a second helicopter in the next biennium. Helipads have been fairly well maintained. They are maintained by the USFS which has had some staffing reductions. The County Board has approved funding for a drone for the Lutsen Fire Department. This will be on the Chiefs' meeting discussion upcoming on Monday. Watch Duty app is a useful resource to track wildfires. <u>BWCA Collaborative meeting</u>: Recommendations for fire	

	management, tow boats, permitting, etc. <u>Mock evacuation</u> with the Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department has taken place. <u>The Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department</u> has a video about maintaining and repairing sprinkler systems, available for people to watch. <u>Firewise</u>—there are some limited funds available for this season. Some new communities are being formed.	It is recommended that property owners laminate instructions for operating their sprinkler systems and tie them to the sprinkler system tank and other at other key locations around your property.
Chik Wauk Loon Project/Get the Lead Out Partnership (10:30-10:40)	There were 19 lakes signed up last week along the Gunflint to monitor the loons. There were 19 loon chicks hatched from these sites. Dr. Piper will analyze the results of the monitoring. Gunflint Trail is including Caribou, Devil Track, and Saginaga Lakes. There are 30 Lakes and 40 monitors this year. The Chik Wauk Loon program is partnered with the Loon Center. This Saturday, June 13, there will be a training at the Schaap Center on loon recues with the Raptor Center and other nationally involved presenters. Bill Douglas is building some platforms that can be placed on lakes where a platform would be helpful for loons to nest and has designed a protective float that can be placed around loon nests. He is involved in the Chik Wauk Loon Project Get the Lead Out effort.	Kathy will send out loon information sheets for CCCoLA members to share with their association members. The Chik Wauk Loon webpage is now launched. Here is the link. https://chikwaukloonprogram.com/ Please share with your lake/road/property owner association members Members who have agreed to monitor collection sites are encouraged to attend the loon rescue training. Here is a link to the Share Our Shorelines page from the National Loon Center. Please share with others. https://www.nationallooncenter.org/share-our-shoreline/
Jerry Johnson, Hungry Jack Reel in and Recycle device assembled with PVC	Jerry Johnson from Hungry Jack Lake showed the group a receptacle for collecting lead tackle and fishing line made of large-diameter PVC pipe. Would DNR have a problem with placing the lead tackle and fishing line collection receptacles at boat launches?	Jerry will share the design with this group. Best to check with the DNR before placing at DNR Boat Launches.
Meeting with DNR Staff—Betsy Blume (10:40-10:50)	Betsy Blume, Patti Craddock, and Kathy Bogen met DNR staff members Melissa Kusky, Director of the Ecological and Randal Doneen, Section Manager Conservation Assistance and	Patti will share a link to the DNR permitting information. A legal basis for the DNR to revoke the

	Regulation via Zoom on May 21st. The purpose of this meeting was: • To connect with our and the DNR's personal and professional shared values on protecting water, fish, and other natural resources and to express CCCoLA collaboration with other partners around these values. • To understand the DNR's mandate to promote mining (while also being charged to protect our ground and surface water, wildlife, fish, and aquatic life resources. • To share our concerns about what we have learned about copper nickel mining and its potential permanent damage to our water resources. Share that we plan to educate and inform the public from experts we have connected with. The board of CCCoLA has a position paper on copper nickel mining. Noting that the State is now the gatekeepers for mine permitting, we wanted to learn more about the permitting process and opportunities for public input.	permitting is shared on the Friends of the Boundary Waters site. Interested citizens are encouraged to sign up on the DNR's public engagement portal https://engage.dnr.state.mn.us/
Copper Nickel Summer Workshop—Patti Craddock (10:50-11:00)	On July 16 12:30-3:30 at Cook County Higher Education, CCCoLA will be sponsoring an informational workshop about Copper-Nickel Sulfide mining. The workshop will feature 3 subject matter experts to share their knowledge about the process of Copper Nickel sulfide mining, the potential for environmental harm from this type of mining and impacts upon businesses reliant on preserving the pristine nature of the BWCAW and surrounding area. The workshop will be presented in a World Café style allowing for small group conversation about the subject matter following each presentation.	CCCoLa members are asked to volunteer to help with this workshop in several ways: 1. Volunteer to serve as a small group discussion host. 2. Provide refreshments. 3. Spread the word in the community 4. Attend the workshop Please contact Margre Lind Mills margre.lind@gmail.com (440) 785-1160 or Patti Craddock Patticraddock@msn.com (651) 247-8405 if you are interested in helping out.

Summer Event Outreach Booths-- (11:00-11:10)	Please see the events list where CCCoLA members volunteer to staff the CCCoLA information booth and/or assist Amanda Weberg with the AIS booth. This is a great way to connect with others in the community who care about preserving and protecting the waters, shorelands, and wildlife!	Members can sign up to volunteer to staff the booths by contacting Kathy Bogen kathybogen@msn.com (218)940-1593 for the Gunflint Canoe Races Margre Lind Mills margre.lind@gmail.com (440) 785-1160 for Fisherman's Picnic Amanda Weberg amanda.weberg@cookcountymn.gov (612) 834-8972 for the AIS booth at the Gunflint Canoe Races.
Approval of May 12, 2026 minutes (11:10-11:12)		Patti made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2026 meeting. Gary seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
May 2026 Treasurer's Report (11:12-11:15)	Gary Maciejewski, CCCoLA Treasurer reported that CCCoLA has: • Checking account balance of \$511.20 • Funds available \$571.20	Al made a motion to approve the May 2026 Treasurers Report Carol seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Associations and Individuals are encouraged to send their annual dues to: Gary Maciejewski PO Box 323 Lutsen, MN 55612-0323 Dues are \$60 for associations and \$15 for individuals/families
AIS Playing Cards (11:20-11:25)	Kathy has designed the template for the CCCoLA AIS playing cards. Having investigated several options for printing, Pro Print of Duluth offers greater flexibility on quantity and a lower price than other companies. The cost would be \$439.32 for 100 (\$4.39 ea), 660.78 for 200 (\$3.30 ea) and \$1196.94 for 500 (\$2.40 ea).	This is a topic for further discussion. The group seemed in favor of selling the cards as a fundraising opportunity since the cost is prohibitive for a giveaway item.
CCCoLa T-Shirts	Some members have expressed interest in purchasing CCCoLA T-	The cost will be \$17 each and members

	shirts.	can order by sending a check to Gary Maciejewski made out to CCCoLA. Kathy will send out the order forms.
Steering Committee Elections	The CCCoLA Steering Committee is made up of 6 members including the Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer and 3 others who share the responsibility for agenda setting, communication, and leadership. The Steering Committee terms are for 2 years and they are staggered. This June, Barb Bottger and Margre Lind Mills' terms are up. Margre is interested in serving another 2-year term. Barb is not. Betsy Blume is interested in serving on the Steering Committee.	The group was asked if there are any other nominations for the Steering Committee. Hearing none, a motion was made by Gary Maciejewski to vote for the slate of Margre Lind Mills and Betsy Blume. Kate 2 nd The vote was unanimous to elect Margre and Betsy to serve for 2 years on the Steering Committee. Congratulations and thanks!
MNCOLA	The MNCOLA Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 16 9-11 am virtually. CCCoLA members are encouraged to attend and to stay connected with MNCOLA.	https://mncola.org/event/mn-cola-june-membership-meeting-june-16/
Meeting Reflection (11:25-11:30)	Rich, informative, fantastic good group, grateful, welcoming , exciting partnerships,	Adjourn Gary Margre 2 nd